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Urban District of Horncastle

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1957

HORNCASTLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
1957

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A. O'HAGAN, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

H. SMITH, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

The Medical Officer is also Medical Officer for Woodhall Spa Urban District and Horncastle Rural District Councils.

The Sanitary Inspector is also Surveyor, Meat Inspector and Housing, Allotments and Markets Manager.

There is a Public Health Committee which deals with all matters affecting Public Health, other than housing.

Members of Committee :-

R.L. Kisby (Chairman)
Mrs. M. Robison
E. Goodacre
E. Kemp
F. Townley

To the Chairman and Members,
Horncastle Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present, in customary form, the annual report of your Medical Officer of Health, to which is appended the annual report of the Public Health Inspector for the year 1957.

The year has not been one in which any great public works have been attempted, since the high cost of works, both in the interest rate and the actual cost of materials and labour, have restricted all but most vital work throughout the country.

Poliomylitis vaccination occupied much of your Medical Officer's time during the year, as the age-groups were extended until a very large proportion of the population are now eligible for vaccination either by their private doctors or by the Medical Staff of the County. Arrangements will be made for sessions at times convenient for the 15 - 25 age group, and details will be published as soon as they are available.

Immunization against Diptheria remains available at ages up to 15 years and and may be combined during the two winter quarters with protection against Whooping Cough and Tetanus. It is desirable to minimise the number of injections given during the summer and the campaign against the latter three diseases is being concentrated during the winter, leaving only the poliomylitis vaccination to carry during the summer.

Turning to housing accommodation, Horncastle will need increasing accommodation for the elder generation, as the death rate falls, year by year. Opinion tends away from the large type of hostel in favour of small bungalow-type dwellings and if these could be let at a rent that most retired or near-retiring folk could afford, then much accommodation suitable for young families would be freed.

A welcome increase in private building has taken place in the district and this fills a need which might otherwise have to be met by the Council.

Nevertheless, there remains a gap between the very old, unsatisfactory and crowded terrace-houses of the old town and the private-enterprize bungalows: this will certainly remain as a duty for the Council to complete.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SECTION

AREA OF URBAN DISTRICT:	1421 acres
REGISTRAR GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF MID-YEAR POPULATION:	3880
DENSITY OF POPULATION PER ACRE:	2.73
SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE:	£145.
RATEABLE VALUE OF URBAN DISTRICT:	37,275.
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES:	1278.
MOVEABLE DWELLINGS LICENCED UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT:	6.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births

		1956	1957
Legitimate	Male	22	27
	Female	27	29
	Total	49	55
Illegitimate	Male	1	2
	Female	1	4
	Total	2	6
Total live births		51	61
Crude live birth rate per 1000 estimated population		13.4	15.7
Comparability factor for Horncastle		1.09	1.08
Therefore standardized live birth rate per 1000 estimated population		14.6	16.9
Live birth rate, England and Wales per 1000 estimated population		15.7	16.1

Illegitimacy birth rate - Horncastle 98 per 1000 live births
- National 46 per 1000 live births

Still-Births

		1956	1957
Legitimate	Male	1	1
	Female	0	1
	Total	1	2

Still-birth rate Horncastle 33 per 1000 total births

Total still-birth rate England and Wales 22.4 per 1000 total births

There was no death of an infant under 6 years of age.

DEATHS

	1954	1955	1956	1957
Male	22	28	17	26
Female	30	19	23	12
Total	52	47	40	38

Crude death rate per 1000 estimated population 10.0

Standardized death rate per 1000 estimated population 8.9

Death rate England and Wales per 1000 estimated population 11.5

Age at Death (years)	Number of Deaths 1957	1956	1955	1954	%age of Total Deaths - 1956
Under 1	0	0	2	0	
1 - 4	0	0	1	1	
5 - 9	0	0	0	0	
10 - 14	0	0	0	0	
15 - 24	1	0	2	0	
25 - 34	1	1	1	0	2.5
35 - 44	1	2	0	2	5.0
45 - 54	4	2	0	4	5.0
55 - 64	4	3	7	3	7.5
65 - 74	7	11	9	18	26.5
75 & over	20	21	25	24	53.5

Causes of Death as shewn in the Registrar General's Short List

Short List No.	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal Infection	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	0	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	0	0	0
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	0	2
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	0	0
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	1	3
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
16.	Diabetes	0	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	1	3
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	5	0	5
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	0	0	0
20.	Other heart disease	7	3	10
21.	Other circulatory disease	2	1	3
22.	Influenza	0	0	0
23.	Pneumonia	2	1	3
24.	Bronchitis	2	0	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	0	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27.	Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	0	0	0
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	0	0
29.	Hyperplasia of prostrate	0	0	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	0	2	2
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	0	0	0
34.	All other accidents	1	3	4
35.	Suicide	0	0	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
	Totals	26	12	38

Causes of Death at ages below 65 years

Burns	1
Drowning	1
Gas Poisoning	1
Cancer of Lung	1
Heart Disease	4
Cirrhosis of Liver	1

Maternal Mortality

Nil

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age

Total death rate of infants 1957	Nil
Death rate per 1000 live births	Nil
National infant mortality rate	23.0 per 1000 related live births

Infectious Diseases

	1956	1957
Measles	-	192
Whooping Cough	17	-
Dysentery (Sonne)	47	1
Dysentery (Salmonella Bredeney)	2	-
Dysentery (Salmonella Typhimurium)	1	1
Pneumonia	1	-
Scarlet Fever and Scarletina	2	1
Erysipelas	3	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	-
Poliomyelitis	-	1

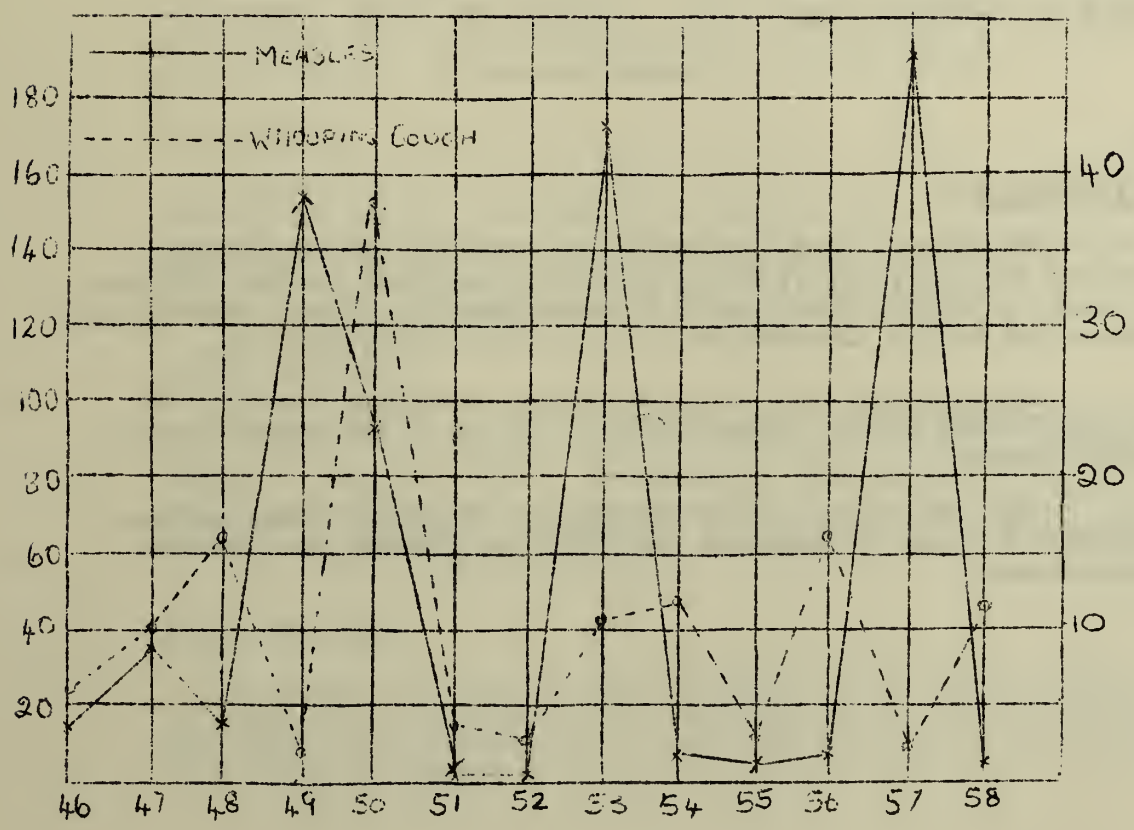
The town suffered a sharper than usual attack of Measles during 1957. The only significance of this was that it was not unexpected, as there had been a longer lull between epidemics than is usual.

The regular recurrence of measles outbreaks, however, serve to high-light the progress being made against whooping-cough.

In the case of Woodhall Spa, figures are exceptionally reliable and this degree of consistency is not to be expected in an area served by several doctors. Nevertheless the appended graph shows quite clearly the decline of whooping cough from the 1950 peak.

There is increasing evidence that the family doctors are making more time available for immunizing their child-patients and that, together with the County Councils doctors we are witnessing an unobtrusive but invaluable attack on this disease. This is brought out in the table below.

The recent drive against Poliomyelitis may be equally effective but happily, Horncastle will never know, with certainty, what it achieves because, unlike whooping cough, there have never been serious outbreaks of Poliomyelitis in Horncastle. Nevertheless, Digby, and more recently Nettleham and Market Rasen have suffered sadly from the disease and it is to be hoped that Horncastle's luck holds with a combination of vaccination and increased knowledge of the mode of spread of the disease, bringing it to the state in which diphtheria exists today - a medical rarity which few young doctors have the chance to see.



Preventive Measures

There is a marked preference now for the use of combined protection against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, as shown by the following figures supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health :-

	1954	1955	1956	1957
Diphtheria protection only	34	8	2	11
Whooping Cough protection only	14	4	2	1
Combined Diphtheria & Whooping Cough	2	28	43	44
Smallpox Vaccination Revaccination	17	31	36	50
Boosters in Current Year	58	67	51	61
Boosters in Previous Years	45	58	67	51

FOOD

Meat Inspection:

The work of meat inspection was carried out efficiently throughout the year. Mr. P. Walsh relieving Mr. Smith for the holidays on an exchange basis. The steady downward trend in animal tuberculosis continues and bovine tuberculosis is a notable rarity nowadays.

There are now two licenced private slaughterhouses in the town, the Council having relinquished its lease of the former public slaughterhouses.

This was taken over by one firm of butchers whilst another has adapted a group of buildings behind Bridge Street, as a private slaughterhouse.

Other Foods

The quantity of unfit food surrendered was slightly increased over the previous low figure but remains satisfactorily low.

Ice Cream

Only one small scale producer remained in business in 1957. Sampling from this and the other 17 premises from which pre-packed ice cream is sold, was not adequate. It is difficult for a part-time Public Health Inspector to collect samples and arrange adequately rapid delivery to the laboratory for the reports to be entirely reliable, unless time were taken for a personal car journey to Lincoln.

Meat Products

A considerable quantity of meat products are made and sold in Horncastle and more frequent visiting and informal analysis of products would be desirable. However, the analysis of samples is a matter for the County whilst that sanitation is the prime duty of this Council, so that duplication of visits occurs.

Water Supply

No difficulties occurred during the year, during which, to augment the supply, authority was obtained for a bore-hole at Cawkwell which, not yet in production to supply, is providing extra water of good quality bacteriologically. Before it is taken into use, chemical analysis will be performed.

Sewage Disposal

This continues to exercise the minds of the Medical Officer and Surveyor, and small works of improvement continue. Not all samples of effluent prove satisfactory, but this is true of all the modern plants in this area, so that the Council has not yet thought it advisable to spend the many thousands of pounds that an up to date works would cost.

Refuse Disposal

No change was made in the collection system and the tip at Hemingby Lane is no longer the nuisance that it was in earlier years when it was wholly a wet tip. Dry tipping can be foreseen in a matter of months.

Housing

All Council building was suspended, owing to the high cost and loss of subsidy and the time of re-starting building cannot be foreseen.

There is no great pressure upon the Council to provide accommodation at the rents which would be inevitable at present and comparable to the repayments on a privately built house. It is noticeable, therefore, that private enterprise building has moved considerable in recent months.

REPORT OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR

HOUSING

Total number of new houses erected during year :-

(1)	By Local Authority	0
(2)	By other Local Authorities	0
(3)	By other Bodies or Persons	8

Housing Repairs and Rents Bill :-

	Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued following applications by tenants served with rent increase notices (Section 26)	0

Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year :-

(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	54
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	93

Remedy of defects during the year with service of formal notice :-

	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by local authority or their officers	43

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR	0

HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING

(a)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	3
(b)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	N/K
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	N/K
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	N/K

HOUSING ACT, 1949

(a)	Number of applications for grants received	0
(b)	Number of grants made	0
(c)	Number of applications for grants made by Local Authority	0

MOVEABLE DWELLING, TENTS, VANS, etc :-

Number of Site Licences	0
Number of individual licences	6
Total number of caravans permitted under licences	6
Number of inspections during the year - Sites	0
- Dwellings	16
Number of contraventions remedied	2

FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses

Number in district	6
Number of inspections	10
Number of contraventions	3
Defects remedied	3

Milk Supplies

Number of distributors on register :-	
Sterilized	4
Pasteurized	3
Tuberculin Tested	3
Number of samples of milk taken in course of delivery	0
Number of inspections of dairy premises	7
Contraventions remedied	0

Ice Cream

Number of manufacturers on register	1
Number of premises registered for sale of ice cream	18
Number of inspections of premises made	21
Number of contraventions found	1
Defects remedied	1
Number of samples taken	0

Meat Products

Number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	9
Number of inspections made	17
Number of contraventions found	4
Defects remedied	0

Other Food Premises

Number of inspections	40
Number of contraventions found	4
Defects remedied	4

Slaughterhouses

Number licenced - Abattoir type	0
Private (individual)	0

FOODS CONDEMNED (other than carcases

Food	1957
Tinned Meat and Fish	15 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	42 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	26 lbs.
Miscellaneous Tins	9 lbs

Method of disposal :- Buried at Refuse Tip

UNSOUND FOOD — CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed(if known)	447	1	41	910	774
Number inspected	447	1	41	910	774
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases condemned	0	0	2	1	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	52	0	3	21	38
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	11.6	0	11.1	2.4	4.9
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0	0	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	21	0	0	0	31
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.6	0	0	0	4.1

Method of disposal :- Coloured, and collected by Messrs. Wings, Boston.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Closets

Number of houses with privy vaults in district	0
Number of houses with pail closets in district	45
Number of houses with water closets in district	1233
Number of W.C.'s substituted for pail closets or privy vaults	0

Cesspools and Septic Tanks

Number of cesspools and septic tanks emptied, cleansed, etc.	0
Number of cesspools and septic tanks abolished	0

WATER SUPPLIES

Domestic

Number of houses supplied from Public Mains :-	
in house	970
Standpipe	285
Number of houses supplied from private sources :-	
in house	0
not in house	23
New sources of supply	
public	0
private	0
Number of new sources of supply	0
Number of public sources closed as polluted	0
Any part requiring a public supply or the replacement of a public supply for health reasons	0
Number of samples taken for chemical examination	0
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination	
Class I	46
Other Classes	0

Swimming Pools

Number of public swimming pools in operation	1
Number fitted with continuous mechanical filtration and chlorination	Chlorination only
Number of samples of swimming pool water taken for bacteriological examination:	
Satisfactory	2
Unsatisfactory	1

GENERAL

Offensive Trades

Number of premises in district	1
Number of inspections	8
Contraventions remedied	1

Knackers Yards

Number licenced	1
Number of inspections	8
Contraventions remedied	0

Shops Act, 1950

Number of shops inspected	21
Contraventions remedied	0

Disinfection etc.

Rooms disinfected: (a) Ordinary infectious diseases	2
(b) Tuberculosis	0
Number of premises disinfested	1

Refuse collection and disposal

Number of premises from which refuse is collected	1538
Frequency of collection	Weekly
Method of disposal	Part controlled tipping. Part Tipping in water. (Tipping in water is unsatisfactory
Is collection by Local Authority or Contract?	Local Authority

Nuisances

Total number of nuisances during the year	14
(1) Abated as result of informal action by Public Health Inspector	13
(2) Reported to Council - Statutory notice issued	0
- Statutory notice not issued	1

Details of nuisances abated

	After informal Intimation	After Statutory Notice
Refuse	3	-
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	-	-
Drainage	6	-
Poultry and animals	3	-
Dangerous premises	1	-
Miscellaneous nuisances	2	-

Rats and Mice Destruction

Number of Rodent operatives employed	2 (Part-time)
Number of premises treated :	
(a) dwellinghouses	18
(b) other premises	23
Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in the district?	No

Atmospheric Pollution

Number of visits	4
Number of nuisances found	0
Number of nuisances abated	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

1. Inspection for purposes of provision as to health (including Inspections made by Public Health Inspector)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i)factories in which Secs.1-4 & 6 are to be enforced by Loc.Auth.	5	7	-	-
(ii)factories not included in (i) in which Secs.7 is enforced by Local Authority	37	41	-	-
(iii)other premises in which Secs.7 is enforced by Local Authority	1	33	-	-
TOTAL	43	81	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No.of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
San.Conveniences					
(a) inefficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	1	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	6	6	-	1	-